

**Mathematics 1550H – Probability I: Introduction to Probability**

TRENT UNIVERSITY, Summer 2023 (S62)

SOLUTIONS TO THE FINAL EXAMINATION

14:00-14:50 Tuesday, 1 August, in ENW 117

**Instructions:** Do both of parts **A** and **B**, and, if you wish, part **C**. Show all your work and simplify answers as much as practical. *If in doubt about something, ask!*

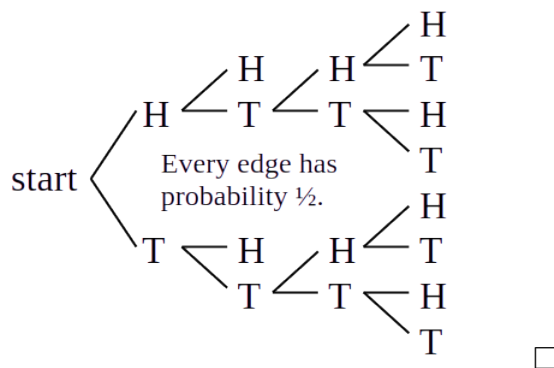
**Aids:** Calculator, letter- or A4-size aid sheet, standard normal table (supplied), one brain.

**Part A.** Do all of 1–5.

[Subtotal = 60/90]

1. A fair coin is tossed twice. If it comes up heads on the second toss, the experiment ends; if it comes up tails, the coin is tossed twice more and then the experiment ends.
  - a. Draw the complete tree diagram for this experiment. [3]
  - b. What are the sample space and probability function for this experiment? [5]
  - c. Let  $E$  be the event that an even number of heads comes up in the course of the experiment and let  $F$  be the event that four tosses are made during the experiment. Determine whether the events  $E$  and  $F$  are independent or not. [5]

SOLUTION. **a.** Here it is:



**b.** The samples space is

$$S = \{ HH, TH, HTHH, HTHT, HTTH, HTTT, TTHH, TTHT, TTTH, TTTT \},$$

and the probability distribution function, since the coin is fair, is given by  $m(HH) = m(TT) = (\frac{1}{2})^2 = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$  and  $m(\omega) = (\frac{1}{2})^4 = \frac{1}{16} = 0.0625$  if  $\omega \in S \setminus \{ HH, TH \}$ .  $\square$

**c.** We have  $E = \{ HH, HTHT, HTTH, TTHH, TTTT \}$ , so  $P(E) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{16} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$ ,  $F = \{ HTHH, HTHT, HTTH, HTTT, TTHH, TTHT, TTTH, TTTT \}$ , so  $P(F) = \frac{8}{16} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$ , and  $E \cap F = \{ HTHT, HTTH, TTHH, TTTT \}$ , so  $P(E \cap F) = \frac{4}{16} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$ . Since  $P(E \cap F) = \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = P(E)P(F)$ , it follows by definition that  $E$  and  $F$  are independent.  $\blacksquare$

2. Suppose the continuous random variable  $X$  has  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x^2 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$  as its probability density function.

a. Check that  $f(x)$  is a valid probability density function. [7]

b. Compute the expected value  $E(X)$  and the variance  $V(X)$  of  $X$ . [8]

SOLUTION. a. Observe that  $f(x) = 3x^2 \geq 0$  (since  $x^2 \geq 0$ ) when  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ , and  $f(x) = 0 \geq 0$  otherwise. Thus  $f(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$ , meeting the first requirement for a valid probability density function.

For the second requirement for a valid probability density function we need to check that  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$ . Here we go:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx &= \int_{-\infty}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 3x^2 dx + \int_1^{\infty} 0 dx = 0 + 3 \left. \frac{x^3}{3} \right|_0^1 + 0 \\ &= x^3 \Big|_0^1 = 1^3 - 0^3 = 1 - 0 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Since it satisfies both requirements to be a valid probability density function,  $f(x)$  is one.  $\square$

b. We set up the relevant definitions and compute away:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 x \cdot 0 dx + \int_0^1 x \cdot 3x^2 dx + \int_1^{\infty} x \cdot 0 dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 3x^3 dx + \int_1^{\infty} 0 dx = 0 + 3 \left. \frac{x^4}{4} \right|_0^1 + 0 \\ &= \frac{3}{4} 1^4 - \frac{3}{4} 0^4 = \frac{3}{4} \cdot 1 - \frac{3}{4} \cdot 0 = \frac{3}{4} - 0 = \frac{3}{4} = 0.75 \\ E(X^2) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 x^2 \cdot 0 dx + \int_0^1 x^2 \cdot 3x^2 dx + \int_1^{\infty} x^2 \cdot 0 dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 3x^4 dx + \int_1^{\infty} 0 dx = 0 + 3 \left. \frac{x^5}{5} \right|_0^1 + 0 \\ &= \frac{3}{5} 1^5 - \frac{3}{5} 0^5 = \frac{3}{5} \cdot 1 - \frac{3}{5} \cdot 0 = \frac{3}{5} - 0 = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \\ V(X) &= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{3}{5} - \left[ \frac{3}{4} \right]^2 = \frac{3}{5} - \frac{9}{16} \\ &= \frac{48}{80} - \frac{45}{80} = \frac{3}{80} = 0.0375 \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

3. A five-card hand drawn from a standard 52-card deck is a *straight* if it is made of cards of consecutive kinds,\* where the order of the kinds wraps around the ends. For example, the hand  $4\spadesuit, 3\clubsuit, 2\clubsuit, A\heartsuit, K\spadesuit$  would count as a straight.
- If the order in which the hand is drawn doesn't matter, how many different straights are possible? [5]
  - What is the probability that a hand is a straight, given that it is a *flush*, *i.e.* that all the cards in the hand are from the same suit? [7]

SOLUTION. **a.** If only the kinds are considered, there are 13 possible straights because here are 13 kinds We can list them by the “top” card:  $AKQJ10, KQJ109, \dots, 2AKQJ$ . However, each of the five cards in a straight could come from any of the four suits. There are therefore  $13 \cdot 4^5 = 13312$  possible straights.  $\square$

**b.** To get a flush, we need to pick one of the 4 suits and then choose a hand of five cards from the 13 cards in that suit. There are therefore  $4 \cdot \binom{13}{5} = 4 \cdot 1287 = 5148$  possible flushes. Since each of the  $\binom{52}{5} = 2598960$  possible five-card hands (as order doesn't matter) is equally likely, the probability of a hand being a flush is  $\frac{5148}{2598960}$ .

For a hand to be both a flush and a straight, we need to pick one of the 4 suits and then choose one of the 13 cards in that suit to be the “top” card of the straight, as in **a** above. There are therefore  $4 \cdot 13 = 52$  possible hands that are both a straight and a flush. Since each of the  $\binom{52}{5} = 2598960$  possible five-card hands is equally likely, the probability of a hand being a straight and a flush is  $\frac{52}{2598960}$ .

It now follows that the probability that a hand is a straight, given that it is a flush, is:

$$P(\text{straight}|\text{flush}) = \frac{P(\text{straight and flush})}{P(\text{flush})} = \frac{\frac{52}{2598960}}{\frac{5148}{2598960}} = \frac{52}{5148} = \frac{1}{99} \approx 0.0101 \quad \blacksquare$$

---

\* The *kinds* are, in order,  $A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3$ , and  $2$ , and the *suits* are  $\heartsuit, \diamondsuit, \clubsuit$ , and  $\spadesuit$ .

4. Suppose  $W$  is continuous random variable with a normal distribution that has  $\mu = E(W) = 3$  and  $\sigma^2 = V(W) = 4$ . Compute  $P(W \geq 1.7 \mid W \leq 3.9)$  with the help of a standard normal table. [10]

SOLUTION. We convert the necessary probabilities for  $W$  into ones for the standard normal random variable  $Z = \frac{W-\mu}{\sigma}$ . Note that the standard deviation of  $W$  is  $\sigma = \sqrt{V(W)} = \sqrt{4} = 2$ . Here we go, with the help of our standard normal table:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(W \leq 3.9) &= P\left(\frac{W-3}{2} \leq \frac{3.9-3}{2}\right) = P(Z \leq 0.45) \approx 0.6736 \\
 P(W \geq 1.7 \text{ and } W \leq 3.9) &= P(1.7 \leq W \leq 3.9) = P\left(\frac{1.7-3}{2} \leq \frac{W-3}{2} \leq \frac{3.9-3}{2}\right) \\
 &= P(-0.65 \leq Z \leq 0.45) = P(Z \leq 0.45) - P(Z < -0.65) \\
 &\approx 0.6736 - 0.2578 = 0.4158 \\
 P(W \geq 1.7 \mid W \leq 3.9) &= \frac{P(W \geq 1.7 \text{ and } W \leq 3.9)}{P(W \leq 3.9)} \approx \frac{0.4158}{0.6736} \approx 0.6173 \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

5. Die  $A$  is a fair standard die and die  $B$  is fair four-sided die with faces numbered 1 through 4. One of the two dice is chosen at random, with equal likelihood, and rolled. The random variable  $X$  records the number on the face of the die that came up on the roll. Use Bayes' Theorem to compute the probability that die  $B$  had been chosen, given that  $X = 2$ . [10]

SOLUTION. The probability that  $X = 2$ , *i.e.* 2 came up when the chosen die was rolled, if die  $A$  was the one chosen is  $P(X = 2 \mid A) = \frac{1}{6}$ , since 2 is on just one of the six faces of die  $A$ . Similarly, the probability that  $X = 2$  if die  $B$  was chosen is  $P(X = 2 \mid B) = \frac{1}{4}$ . We are given that the dice are equally likely to be chosen, *i.e.* that  $P(A) = P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$ . By Bayes' Theorem, it now follows that the probability that die  $B$  was chosen, given that  $X = 2$ , is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(B \mid X = 2) &= \frac{P(X = 2 \mid B)P(B)}{P(X = 2 \mid A)P(A) + P(X = 2 \mid B)P(B)} = \frac{\frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\frac{1}{8}}{\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{8}} \\
 &= \frac{\frac{1}{8}}{\frac{2}{24} + \frac{3}{24}} = \frac{\frac{1}{8}}{\frac{5}{24}} = \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{24}{5} = \frac{3}{5} = 0.6 \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

**Part B.** Do any *two* (2) of **6–9**.

[Subtotal = 30/90]

**6.** An urn contains 10 balls, 9 of which are purple and 1 of which is green. The balls are drawn from the urn, one at a time and without replacement, until the green ball is drawn. The random variable  $X$  tells us which draw the green ball appeared on.

**a.** What is the probability distribution function of  $X$ ? [6]

**b.** What kind of distribution does  $X$  have? [1]

**c.** What are the expected value  $E(X)$  and variance  $V(X)$  of  $X$ ? [8]

SOLUTION. **a.** Note that  $X$  can take on the integer values 1 through 10; since balls are not replaced and there are 10 balls, only one of which is green, there can be at most 10 draws. On any given draw, if there are  $a$  purple balls and the green ball remaining, one has a probability of  $\frac{a}{a+1}$  of drawing a purple ball and a probability of  $\frac{1}{a}$  of drawing the green one. The probability distribution function  $m(k) = P(X = k)$  of  $X$  is then given by:

$$\begin{aligned}m(1) &= P(X = 1) = \frac{1}{10} \\m(2) &= P(X = 2) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(3) &= P(X = 3) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(4) &= P(X = 4) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(5) &= P(X = 5) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(6) &= P(X = 6) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(7) &= P(X = 7) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(8) &= P(X = 8) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(9) &= P(X = 9) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{10} \\m(10) &= P(X = 10) = \frac{9}{10} \cdot \frac{8}{9} \cdot \frac{7}{8} \cdot \frac{6}{7} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{1} = \frac{1}{10} \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

**b.** Since every value of  $X$  is equally likely,  $X$  has a uniform distribution.  $\square$

**c.** Here we go:

$$\begin{aligned}E(X) &= \sum_{k=1}^{10} kP(X = k) = \sum_{k=1}^{10} k \cdot \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{10} k = \frac{1}{10} \cdot \frac{10(10+1)}{2} = \frac{11}{2} = 5.5 \\E(X^2) &= \sum_{k=1}^{10} k^2P(X = k) = \sum_{k=1}^{10} k^2 \cdot \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{10} k^2 = \frac{1}{10} \cdot \frac{10(10+1)(2 \cdot 10+1)}{6} \\&= \frac{231}{6} = 38.5 \\V(X) &= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = 38.5 - 5.5^2 = 38.5 - 30.25 = 7.25 \quad \blacksquare\end{aligned}$$

7. The continuous random variable  $X$  has  $g(x) = \begin{cases} xe^{-x^2} & x \geq 0 \\ -xe^{-x^2} & x < 0 \end{cases}$  as its probability density function.

a. Verify that  $g(x)$  is a valid probability density function. [6]

b. Without doing any calculus, what is the expected value  $E(X)$  of  $X$ ? [2]

c. With at least some calculus, what is the variance  $V(X)$  of  $X$ ? [7]

SOLUTION. a. Since  $e^{-x^2} > 0$  for all  $x$ ,  $g(x) = xe^{-x^2} \geq 0$  when  $x \geq 0$  and, since it is also true that  $-x > 0$  when  $x < 0$ ,  $g(x) = -xe^{-x^2} > 0$  when  $x < 0$ . Thus  $g(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$ , satisfying the first condition needed to be a valid probability density.

For the second condition needed to be a valid probability density, we need to check that  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) dx = 1$ . We will do so with the help of the substitution  $u = -x^2$ , so  $du = -2x dx$ , and hence  $x dx = (-\frac{1}{2}) du$ . We will also change the limits as we go along:  
 $x$   $-\infty$   $0$   $\infty$   
 $u$   $-\infty$   $0$   $-\infty$ . Here goes:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) dx &= \int_{-\infty}^0 (-1)xe^{-x^2} dx + \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x^2} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 (-1)e^u \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) du + \int_0^{-\infty} e^u \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^u du - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{-\infty} e^u du \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^u du + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^u du = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^u du \\ &= e^u \Big|_{-\infty}^0 = e^0 - e^{-\infty} = 1 - 0 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $g(x)$  meets both conditions needed to be a valid probability density function.  $\square$

b. Observe that  $g(x)$  is an even function, that is,  $g(-x) = g(x)$  for all  $x$ : if  $x < 0$ , then  $-x > 0$ , so  $g(-x) = (-x)e^{-(-x)^2} = -xe^{-x^2} = g(x)$ ; if  $x > 0$ , then  $-x < 0$ , so  $g(-x) = -(-x)e^{-(-x)^2} = xe^{-x^2} = g(x)$ ; and if  $x = 0$ , then  $-0 = 0 \geq 0$ , so  $g(-0) = g(0) = 0e^{-0^2} = 0$ . It follows that  $xg(x)$  is an odd function, that is,  $(-x)g(-x) = -xg(x)$  for all

$x$ . This, in turn means that  $\int_{-\infty}^0 xg(x) dx = -\int_0^{\infty} xg(x) dx$ , which is true for any odd

function defined for all  $x$  for which the integrals are defined, so  $E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xg(x) dx =$

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 xg(x) dx + \int_0^{\infty} xg(x) dx = 0.$$

A little more informally and without mentioning the integrals (they are mentioned of calculus, even if we didn't do any :-), each positive  $x$  has the same probability  $g(x) = g(-x)$  as its negative  $x$ , so the weighted probabilities cancel out, leaving 0 as the only possibility for the expected value of  $X$ .  $\square$

**c.** Our principal tool will be the same substitution used in part **a**, namely  $u = -x^2$ , so  $x^2 = -u$ ,  $du = -2x dx$ , and hence  $x dx = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) du$ , with the limits changing accordingly,

$x$	$-\infty$	$0$	$\infty$
$u$	$-\infty$	$0$	$-\infty$

. Here goes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(X^2) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 g(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 x^2 \cdot (-1)xe^{-x^2} dx + \int_0^{\infty} x^2 \cdot xe^{-x^2} dx \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^0 (-1)x^3 e^{-x^2} dx + \int_0^{\infty} x^3 e^{-x^2} dx \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^0 ue^u \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) du + \int_0^{-\infty} (-u)e^u \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) du \\
 &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 ue^u du + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{-\infty} ue^u du = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 ue^u du - \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 ue^u du \\
 &= - \int_{-\infty}^0 ue^u du \quad \text{Use integration by parts with } u = u \\
 &\quad \text{and } v' = e^u, \text{ so } u' = 1 \text{ and } v = e^u. \\
 &= - \left[ ue^u \Big|_{-\infty}^0 - \int_{-\infty}^0 1e^u du \right] = - [0e^0 - (-\infty)e^{-\infty}] + e^u \Big|_{-\infty}^0 \\
 &= -[0 - 0] + [e^0 - e^{-\infty}] = 0 + [1 - 0] = 1
 \end{aligned}$$

We were a little informal with evaluating the expressions at the end, exploiting the fact that exponential dominate polynomials, so, *e.g.*  $\infty e^{-\infty} = \frac{\infty}{e^{\infty}} = 0$ . We can now compute the variance of  $X$ :

$$V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = 1 - 0^2 = 1 \quad \blacksquare$$

8. Suppose  $Y$  is a continuous random variable that has a normal distribution with expected value  $E(Y) = 10$  and variance  $V(X) = 9$ .
- Find an upper bound for  $P(Y \geq 20)$  using Markov's Inequality. [3]
  - Find an upper bound for  $P(Y \geq 20)$  using Chebyshev's Inequality. [6]
  - Compute  $P(Y \geq 20)$  with the help of a standard normal table. [6]

SOLUTION. **a.** Since every normal distribution takes on some negative values and Markov's Inequality only applies to non-negative random variables, we can't legitimately apply Markov's Inequality in this case. If we blindly tried anyway, we would "get" something like  $P(Y \geq 20) \leq \frac{E(Y)}{20} = \frac{10}{20} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$ .  $\square$

**b.** *A little crude.* Recall that  $X$  has expected value  $E(X) = 10$  and note that  $X$  has standard deviation  $\sigma = \sqrt{V(X)} = \sqrt{9} = 3$ . Observe that  $P(Y \geq 20) = P(Y - 10 \geq 20 - 10) = P(Y - 10 \geq 10) \leq P(|Y - 10| \geq 10)$ , since  $|Y - 10| \geq 10$  captures more values of  $Y$  than  $Y - 10 \geq 10$ . We can apply Chebyshev's Inequality to  $(|Y - 10| \geq 10)$  if we decompose 10 into  $k\sigma = 3k$ : if  $10 = 3k$ , then  $k = \frac{10}{3}$ . It now follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq 20) &\leq P(|Y - 10| \geq 10) = P\left(|Y - 10| \geq \frac{10}{3} \cdot 3\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\left(\frac{10}{3}\right)^2} = \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^2 = \frac{9}{100} = 0.09 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**b.** *A little clever.* We'll use all the information in the slightly crude approach above, with one extra bit thrown in. A normal distribution's density function is symmetric about the mean of the distribution which in this case is  $E(Y) = 10$ . It follows that  $P(Y - 10 \geq 10) = P(Y - 10 \leq -10)$  and, since  $P(|Y - 10| \geq 10) = P(Y - 10 \leq -10) + P(Y - 10 \geq 10) = 2P(Y - 10 \geq 10)$ , we have that  $P(Y - 10 \geq 10) = \frac{1}{2}P(|Y - 10| \geq 10)$ . Reusing the calculation in the crude solution, it now follows that

$$P(Y \geq 20) = P(Y - 10 \geq 10) = \frac{1}{2}P(|Y - 10| \geq 10) \leq \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.09 = 0.045,$$

which cuts the upper bound obtained in the slightly crude solution in half.  $\square$

**c.** Since  $Y$  has a normal distribution with expected value  $\mu = E(Y) = 10$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = V(X) = 9$ , and hence standard deviation  $\sigma = 3$ ,  $Z = \frac{Y - 10}{3}$  has a standard normal distribution. We convert the desired probability into one for  $Z$  and evaluate it using the suoolied standard normal table:

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq 20) &= P\left(\frac{Y - 10}{3} \geq \frac{20 - 10}{3}\right) = P\left(Z \geq \frac{10}{3}\right) = 1 - P\left(Z < \frac{10}{3}\right) \\ &\approx 1 - P(Z < 3.33) \approx 1 - 0.9996 = 0.0004 \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is much smaller than either of the upper bounds we obtained in part **b**.  $\blacksquare$



9. Suppose the discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are jointly distributed according to the given table.

- a. Compute the expected values  $E(X)$  and  $E(Y)$ , the variances  $V(X)$  and  $V(Y)$ , and also the covariance  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  of  $X$  and  $Y$ . [10]
- b. Determine whether  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent. [1]
- c. Let  $U = X + 3Y$ . Compute  $E(U)$  and  $V(U)$ . [4]

$Y \backslash X$	0	1	2
1	0	0.2	0.2
2	0.3	0	0.1
3	0.1	0.1	0

SOLUTION. a. Here we go:

$$E(X) = 0(0 + 0.3 + 0.1) + 1(0.2 + 0 + 0.1) + 2(0.2 + 0.1 + 0) \\ = 0 \cdot 0.4 + 1 \cdot 0.3 + 2 \cdot 0.3 = 0 + 0.3 + 0.6 = 0.9$$

$$E(Y) = 1(0 + 0.2 + 0.2) + 2(0.3 + 0 + 0.1) + 3(0.1 + 0.1 + 0) \\ = 1 \cdot 0.4 + 2 \cdot 0.4 + 3 \cdot 0.2 = 0.4 + 0.8 + 0.6 = 1.8$$

$$E(X^2) = 0^2(0 + 0.3 + 0.1) + 1^2(0.2 + 0 + 0.1) + 2^2(0.2 + 0.1 + 0) \\ = 0 \cdot 0.4 + 1 \cdot 0.3 + 4 \cdot 0.3 = 0 + 0.3 + 1.2 = 1.5$$

$$E(Y^2) = 1^2(0 + 0.2 + 0.2) + 2^2(0.3 + 0 + 0.1) + 3^2(0.1 + 0.1 + 0) \\ = 1 \cdot 0.4 + 4 \cdot 0.4 + 9 \cdot 0.2 = 0.4 + 1.6 + 1.8 = 3.8$$

$$V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = 1.5 - [0.9]^2 = 1.5 - 0.81 = 0.69$$

$$V(Y) = E(Y^2) - [E(Y)]^2 = 3.8 - [1.8]^2 = 3.8 - 3.24 = 0.56$$

$$E(XY) = 0 \cdot 1 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 \cdot 0.2 + 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 0.2 \\ + 0 \cdot 2 \cdot 0.3 + 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 0 + 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 0.1 \\ + 0 \cdot 3 \cdot 0.1 + 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 0.1 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 0 \\ = 0 + 0.2 + 0.4 + 0 + 0 + 0.4 + 0 + 0.3 + 0 = 1.3$$

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y) = 1.3 - 0.9 \cdot 1.8 = 1.3 - 1.62 = -0.32 \quad \square$$

b. Since  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = -0.32 \neq 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  cannot be independent.  $\square$

c. Here we go, using the properties of expected value, variance, and covariance:

$$E(U) = E(X + 3Y) = E(X) + E(3Y) = E(X) + 3E(Y) = 0.9 + 3 \cdot 1.8 = 6.3$$

$$V(U) = V(X + 3Y) = V(X) + V(3Y) + 2 \text{Cov}(X, 3Y) \\ = V(X) + 3^2 V(Y) + 2 \cdot 3 \text{Cov}(X, 3Y) \\ = 0.69 + 9 \cdot 0.56 + 6 \cdot (-0.32) = 0.69 + 5.04 - 1.92 = 3.81 \quad \blacksquare$$

[Total = 90]

**Part C. Bonus time!**

**T.** Suppose  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  each have an exponential distribution with  $\lambda = 1$ . What kind of distribution does  $X = X_1 + X_2$  have? (No calculation or proof required, just an answer.) [1]

SOLUTION. The density function of each of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is  $f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$ , from which it follows (see Example 7.4 on pp. 292-293 in the textbook) that the density function of  $X = X_1 + X_2$  is  $g(x) = \begin{cases} xe^{-x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$ . Not itself an exponential distribution, but closely related. ■

NOTE: Guessing that  $X = X_1 + X_2$  has an exponential distribution earned a half-point.

**H.** Write a haiku touching on probability or mathematics in general. [1]

**haiku?**

seventeen in three:  
five and seven and five of  
syllables in lines

I HOPE THAT YOU ENJOYED THE COURSE. ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER!